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REVIEW OF SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES AND CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES WITH REGARD TO FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES

(Item 5 (f) of the provisional agenda)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Note by the secretariat

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INTRODUCTION

1. At the fifth session of the Committee on Agricultural Development held in November 1983, a document titled "Environmental aspects of agricultural development"[1/] was presented for consideration. It dealt with environmental conditions and trends in the region as related to selected activities and highlighted the environmental activities of ESCAP relevant to agriculture and food.

2. The Committee considered the document and noted with concern the degradation of the environment arising from the intensification of agricultural activities by expanding the quantum of arable land, irrigated acreage, livestock production, pesticide use etc. Particular concern was expressed over the environmental hazards of pesticide use and the lack of effective legislation to minimize them. The Committee also noted with interest a number of measures suggested for the management of pesticides so as to minimize the environmental hazards resulting from their use.[2/]

3. In response to a request of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for ESCAP to make a contribution to the International Year of the Forest, 1985 which has been declared by the FAO Council, it has been decided to present the ESCAP study on tropical deforestation to this session of the Committee.

4. For future sessions, if the Committee considers it useful and relevant, a paper under the same title will be prepared and presented as a regular practice. However, a different environmental topic may be suggested by the Committee or selected by the secretariat in the light of emerging problems and issues.

I. TROPICAL DEFORESTATION

5. Currently, the Asian and Pacific region exports 70 per cent of the world's tropical wood. The resulting annual loss of forests in Asia is estimated at 3 to 5 million hectares. Projections indicate that unless governments take action individually or collectively many of the world's tropical forests will become scattered and highly degraded remnants with

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1/ E/ESCAP/AD.5/4.

2/ Report of the Committee on Agricultural Development on its fifth session (E/ESCAP/349), para. 97.

social, economic and environmental implications. The major effects will include intensified seasonal flooding with loss of lives and great damage to property, water shortages in dry seasons due to a decrease in the water-retention capacity of the soil, accelerated erosion of agricultural lands and consequent siltation of rivers and coastal waters, disappearance of plant and animal species at unprecedented rates, and changes in micro-climate.

6. Deforestation is also considered an indirect cause of desertification. Realizing the role of forestry in combating desertification, FAO recently convened an expert consultative meeting to review and assess the current state of knowledge in the field of forestry in the arid zone, to discuss potentials and constraints of the contribution of forestry to the development of arid lands, and to formulate recommendations for action at national, regional and international levels for development.

7. The extent of deforestation, as reflected in the closed forest area in the region may be summarized as in table 1. In order of severity, South Asia seems to have the largest percentage reduction in forest area, followed by East Asia and the Pacific.

Table 1. Closed forest area in the Asian and Pacific region, 1960-2000

Subregions	Millions of hectares			Percentage change	
	1960	1980	2000	1960-1980	1980-2000
South Asia	113.7	92.4	74.8	-19	-19
East Asia	355.9	330.2	294.6	- 7	-11
(excluding China)	259.5	210.2	173.6	-19	-17
Pacific	79.3	86.8	82.7	+ 9	- 5

Sources: For 1960 estimates, FAO, World Forest Inventory (Rome, 1963); FAO, Forest Resources in Asia and the Far East Region (Rome, 1976), and country reports for Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea. For 1980 estimates, FAO, Forest Resources of Tropical Asia (Rome, 1981) and above country reports. For 2000 estimates, FAO, Forest Resources of Tropical Asia (Rome, 1981) and FAO, Agriculture Toward 2000 (Rome, 1979).

8. Table 2 gives various estimates of the forest cover, rate of deforestation and reforestation efforts in selected countries in the region. The figures reveal that deforestation has continued unabated in almost all the countries afflicted with aridity and semi-aridity. They also show that estimates of forest cover and rate and extent of deforestation vary according to sources. These variations arise perhaps from varying definitions, time frames, assessment methods or a combination of these factors.

9. There are both advantages and disadvantages to increased use of forest resources. In the short term, benefits may seem fairly significant, but in the long term, costs far outweigh benefits. Immediate benefits deriving from commercial logging, such as jobs generated by industrial uses of forest materials, are visible and can be easily computed in terms of conventional cost-benefit analysis. On the contrary, the loss of vegetative cover and the degradation of tropical forests that leads to numerous social, economic and environmental problems cannot be assessed and are, in general, ignored even in sophisticated management analysis.

10. Realizing this crisis situation, and to render further support to efforts made by concerned governments to prevent deforestation and promote afforestation and reforestation, the secretariat, in co-operation with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, is undertaking a study on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of tropical deforestation. It is proposed to:

(a) Collect, review and analyse existing information on the environmental and socio-economic aspects of tropical deforestation in the region;

(b) Identify gaps in information and promote research and studies to fill those gaps;

(c) Promote public awareness of the environmental and socio-economic aspects of the problems of tropical deforestation;

(d) Study the institutional and legislative aspects of forestry management in the region;

(e) Promote application of remote sensing techniques for vegetation classification and mapping;

/Table 2.

Table 2. Estimates of forest cover, rates of deforestation, and reforested areas in selected countries in the Asian and Pacific region facing desertification problems

Country	Forest cover (percentage)	Extent/rate of deforestation	Reforest area, 1980 (thousands of hectares)
Bangladesh	15.0[a]	10,000 ha/year[b]	128
	9.5[c]		
	8.7[d]	8,000 ha/year[d]	
Burma	77.6[d]	95,500 ha/year[d]	
	57.0[e]		82[e]
	47.0[f]		
China	12.7[g]		28,000[g]
India	21.9[d]	3.4 million ha (1951-1972)[d]	2,064
		147,000 ha/year (1976-1980)[d]	
	10.0[h]		
		106,000 ha/year (1970-1973)[i]	
		3.6 million ha (1953-1974)[j]	
		4.2 million ha until 1976[k]	
Nepal	57.0 (1947)[l]	2.3 million ha (1964-1975)[m]	18.7
	45.0 (1964)[d/n]		
	17.4 (1980)[d]	84,000 ha/year[d]	
	29.1 (1982)[c]		
		400,000 ha/year[o]	
Pakistan	4.5[d]	7,000 ha/year[d]	160
	3.7[p]		
		2.1 per cent (1955-1978)[q]	
Philippines	55.3[r]	4.8 million ha (1968-1982)[r]	501[r]
		320,000 ha/year until 1980[r]	
		165,000 ha/year (1981-1982)[r]	
	43.5[d]	3.2 million ha (1970-1979)[d]	
		101,000 ha/year (1976-1980)[d]	
	33.0[s]	4.3 million ha (1965-1971)[t]	
		0.53 per cent (1955-1978)[q]	
Thailand	59.0 (1972)[u]		114
	37.0 (1976)[u]	250,000 ha (1978)[u]	
	25.5 (1981)[d]	330,000 ha/year (1976-1980)[d]	
		10 million ha (1961-1974)[v]	
		2.96 per cent (1955-1978)[q]	

Table 2 (continued)

Sources:

a/ Government of Bangladesh, Bangladesh National Report on the State of the Environment (Dhaka, Environment Pollution Control Department, 1982).

b/ Department of State, Draft Environmental Report on Bangladesh (Washington, D.C., United States Government Printing Office, 1979).

c/ ESCAP, Problems and Prospects of Desertification Control in the ESCAP Region (1983).

d/ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/United Nations Environment Programme, Forest Resources of Tropical Asia (Rome, 1981).

e/ Government of Burma, Notes on Forestry in Burma (Rangoon, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, 1984).

f/ Asian Development Bank, Burma, an Environmental Profile (Manila, 1982).

g/ Government of China, A Brief Account of China's Forestry (Beijing).

h/ Government of India, Indira Gandhi on Environment (New Delhi, Department of Environment, 1984).

i/ Council of Environmental Quality and the Department of State, The Global 2000 Report to the President: Entering the Twenty-first Century (Washington, D.C., United States Government Printing Office, 1980), vol. 1.

j/ Department of State, Draft Environmental Report on India (Washington, D.C., United States Government Printing Office, 1979).

k/ Government of India, India's Forests (New Delhi, Central Forestry Commission, 1980).

l/ K.P. Pandey and U. Dixit, "Nepal: Himalayan dilemma", India Today, vol. 7, No. 4 (1982), pp. 86-87.

m/ Dhruba Bar Singh Thapa, "A Nepalese perspective", in ESCAP, Environmental Policies to Combat Desertification: Institutional and Legislative Aspects.

n/ Government of Nepal, State of Environment in Nepal (Kathmandu, 1983).

o/ P.C. Mohan, "Not seeing the wood for the trees in Nepal", Ideas and Action, vol. 139 (1981), pp. 6-11.

p/ Government of Pakistan, State of the Environment in Pakistan (Islamabad, Environment and Urban Affairs Division, 1982).

q/ B. Bowonder, Forest Depletions: Some Policy Options (London, Butterworth and Co. (Publishers) Ltd., 1983).

r/ Government of the Philippines, Philippines Environment, 1983 (Manila, National Environmental Protection Council).

s/ United States Agency for International Development, Environmental and Natural Resources Management in Developing Countries (Washington, D.C., 1979), vol. 1.

t/ N. Myers, Conversion of Tropical Moist Forests (Washington, D.C., National Academy of Sciences, 1979).

u/ M.K. Ranjitsinh, "Forest destruction in Asia and South Pacific", Ambio, vol. 8 (1979), pp. 192-201.

v/ Department of State, Draft Environmental Report on Thailand (Washington, D.C., United States Government Printing Office, 1979).

(f) Recommend an action plan for the management of tropical forests taking into particular consideration the environmental and socio-economic aspects of the problem;

(g) Promote an exchange of information and expertise among the countries, and an interchange based on the principle of TCDC;

(h) Assist governments in developing appropriate national plans of action and other requirements including appropriate environmental impact assessment procedures.

11. Activities to be carried out under the project include:

(a) Preparation by national experts of case studies/country reports;

(b) Provision of advisory services;

(c) Preparation of a regional overview;

(d) Formulation of recommendations for action;

(e) Convening of an expert group meeting to discuss and analyse the findings of the studies, to consider and eventually to recommend an action plan for the management of tropical forests, laying particular emphasis on the environmental and socio-economic aspects.

12. Case studies/country reports are being conducted in 10 countries: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand. More countries have been requested to make contributions. In order to assist national experts, the following outline has been proposed and circulated:

Introduction

1. The state of deforestation and the framework conditions

1.1 Historical abstract

1.2 The present extent and the regional distribution of the remaining forests and of deforested areas

1.3 Physical features of the deforested areas with special reference to landforms

1.4 The legal framework (forest laws)

1.5 The institutional framework and measures already been taken

/2.

2. Causes and performance

2.1 The reasons for deforestation

2.2 Groups being directly involved in deforestation

2.3 The traditional attitude of the local people towards forests and deforestation

2.4 The present utilization of deforested areas

2.5 The legal status of pioneer settlers and land tenure problems

3. Impacts on people and the environment

3.1 The ecological impacts

3.2 The economic impacts

3.3 The social impacts

3.4 The political impacts

4. Strategies and future prospects

4.1 Searching for a balance between human needs and environmental demands

4.2 Strategies and measures to be applied

4.3 The future development

5. Conclusions

Annotated bibliography

13. For the sake of uniform assessment, clear definitions of landforms have been given as follows:

Plain:	Flat areas, such as alluvial plains, plateaus or swamps
Peneplain:	Undulating areas with slope gradients not exceeding 10 per cent
Hilly:	Hilly terrain with slope gradients of up to 40 per cent
Mountainous:	Mountain areas with slope gradients of up to 80 per cent
Rugged:	Rugged mountain terrain with slope gradients of more than 80 per cent

/14.

14. With regard to the socio-cultural aspect, the study will review the traditional practices of local people concerning the utilization, conservation, rehabilitation and deforestation of forest areas. The attitude of local people towards forests and deforestation and their traditional use of forests need to be reviewed in order to complete the study.

15. A tentative agenda for the expert group meeting, which is scheduled for early 1986, has been prepared. Substantive items relate to:

- Environmental and socio-economic aspects of the tropical deforestation;
  - (a) National case studies/country reports;
  - (b) Regional overview.
- Institutional and legislative aspects of forestry management.
- Promotion of public awareness for the conservation of forestry resources.
- Other activities concerning tropical deforestation:
  - (a) Accivities of other organization;
  - (b) ESCAP regional remote sensing programme on the application or remote sensing for vegetation classification and mapping.
- Formulation of recommendations and action plan.

16. Pursuant to the Declaration and Framework for Action Plans for the Management of the Asian Environment, 1985 adopted by the Ministerial-level Conference on the Environment in Asia held at Bangkok in February 1985,[3/] the study will take account of relevant sections of the Framework, particularly those related to the conservation of forest ecosystems and wildlife:

(a) Promoting the management of forests on sustained-yield principles;

(b) Implementing projects aimed at the conservation and regeneration of forests;

/(c)

3/ For the text of the Declaration and Framework, see the Report of the Ministerial-level Conference on the Environment in Asia (E/ESCAP/417), annex.

(c) Finding adaptable and appropriate species for different water, soil and climatic conditions for the regeneration of forests and plantations;

(d) Promoting the more efficient use of forest resources through improving production, processing and marketing techniques and through research and development for this purpose;

(e) Reforestation of marginal and derelict lands by suitable plant species and appropriate technology practices;

(f) Promoting surveys and inventories of forest resources;

(g) Promoting studies on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of deforestation;

(h) Involving tribal and rural populations in the management of forests and protected areas;

(i) Promoting social forestry projects;

(j) Promoting better fuel-efficient systems;

(k) Encouraging the establishment of a network of protected areas, including biosphere reserves, to cover all biogeographical regions and ensuring the monitoring of environmental parameters and the management of these protected areas on scientific lines;

(l) Promoting the rehabilitation and restoration of endangered and threatened species;

(m) Promoting the rehabilitation of degraded habitats to their natural state as far as possible;

(n) Promoting the development of research and monitoring facilities for the scientific understanding of wildlife populations and habitats;

(o) Promoting programmes for the large-scale breeding of commercial species;

(p) Regulating international trade in wild flora and fauna;

(q) Promoting regional consultation and the development of regional programmes on wildlife protection and management.

17. *In order to promote* an interchange of TCDC, a survey of existing training and research facilities together with the needs and requirements

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of countries will also be conducted in the course of implementating the project.

18. In conducting this study, the secretariat is working in co-operation with various organizations and agencies, including the ASEAN Experts Group on the Environment (AEGE), the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), FAO, the International Centre of Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and UNEP.

II. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FOREST

19. At its eighty-sixth session, the FAO Council expressed deep concern over the threats to global forest resources. Convinced that forest conservation has become one of the greatest environmental problems and that society cannot afford further damage and degradation to the world's forest resources, the Council adopted resolution 2/86 (see the annex).

20. In implementing this resolution, the Director-General of FAO requested the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to give consideration to incorporating in the programme of the Commission activities related to forest conservation and renewal as well as to take action to heighten public awareness of the critical concerns that underpin the International Year of the Forest. ESCAP has responded very positively in terms of the programme of work (with a study on tropical deforestation for discussion by this Committee), in contributions to FAO global meetings (including the Expert Consultation on the Role of Forestry in Combating Desertification held at Saltillo, Mexico, in June 1985 and the Ninth World Forestry Congress, held at Mexico City, in July 1985), and in the awareness campaign through ESCAP Environment News. Expressing his appreciation of the ESCAP contributions to the observance of the International Year of the Forest, the Director General of FAO wrote:

> "The ESCAP regional project on tropical deforestation certainly gives strong support to the IYF goals of raising public and political awareness of the need to conserve forest resources. The same may also be said for the Declaration and Framework for Action Plans for the Management of the Asian Environment adopted at the Bangkok Conference on the Environment in February 1985. These activities represent both the substance and the spirit of the International Year of the Forest, and I commend ESCAP for their initiatives in this area".

21. As a positive contribution to the Saltillo Expert Consultation, the ESCAP secretariat presented a paper entitled "Combating desertification in the ESCAP region". This document presents the status of desert and desertification in the countries, reviews and analyses the policies and programmes for mitigating desertification hazards, and concludes that unless comprehensive national programmes for desertification control are undertaken by adopting appropriate land-use policies and through large-scale afforestation programme involving people's participation, the problem will continue to pose economic and social distress in the region in the years to come.

III. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CO-ORDINATION UNIT RELEVANT TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

22. Since the fifth session of the Committee, a number of activities in the field of environment with relevance to agriculture and food have been completed or are being carried out.

A. Promotion of environmental awareness

23. After careful and comprehensive preparations, the secretariat convened the Ministerial-level Conference on the Environment in Asia at Bangkok in February 1985. The Ministers having reviewed the issues brought up for discussion, considered the report of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials which was held immediately before the Conference, and adopted the Declaration and Framework for Action Plans for the Management of the Asian Environment, 1985. The Report of the Conference including the text of Declaration and Framework was subsequently endorsed by the Commission at its forty-first session in March. Subsequently, changes in the programme of work are being incorporated and requests are being made to governments to carry out an assessment of the situation including:

(a) An in-depth examination of the Framework with a view to determining national priority areas;

(b) A review of progress of existing projects and programmes in those priority areas;

(c) In the light of (a) and (b), developing and/or strengthening future programmes for the protection and management of the environment;

/(d)

(d) Identifying areas of co-operation between countries in the region principally on the basis of technical co-operation among developing countries.

24. A comprehensive report on the state of the environment in Asia and the Pacific[4/] was prepared and presented for the consideration of the Ministerial-level Conference which, having recognized its value as reference material, recommended that periodic updating of the report should be undertaken. It is expected to finalize the report and publish it before the end of the year. In its continued efforts to widen the dissemination of information, the Environmental Co-ordination Unit has continued to issue ESCAP Environment News covering major activities and issues in the region and various developments in the countries, including deforestation, desertification, protection of the marine environment and related ecosystems, environmental legislation, etc. As a modest contribution to the International Youth Year, the secretariat published "Environment, Development and Youth" which is a collection of the winning entries to an essay competition organized earlier.

25. The secretariat has maintained close relations with mass media and continued to provide support to countries to organize national media seminars. In particular, in co-operation with the Government of India, it convened a Regional Media Conference on Environment and Development at New Delhi in February 1985. The most significant outcome of this was the establishment of the Asian Forum of Environmental Journalists (AFEJ) and the constitution of an ad hoc committee to carry out the necessary preparations for the first meeting of the Governing Council of AFEJ. Action is being taken to promote the establishment of a national forum of environmental journalists in various countries. Each national forum will constitute a building block of AFEJ. The secretariat is providing assistance to the ad hoc committee in this regard.

B. Management of terrestrial ecosystems

26. In addition to the regional study on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of tropical deforestation as described in section I, the secretariat is continuing implementation of its work on the management of

/arid

4/ ECU/MCEA/PM/4 and Corr.1

arid and semi-arid land, including desertification control. A first study tour on desertification control was conducted in China in September 1983. A second study tour was organized in the USSR Central Asian Republics in October-November 1984. These activities have been conducted to enable scientists and experts from the region to become acquainted with the achievements of China and the USSR to contain the spread of deserts, reclaim desert areas and develop them for the benefit of desert dwellers. Further activities are being planned to emphasize specific aspects of desertification control and the management of arid and semi-arid lands. A joint ESCAP-UNEP regional network of research and training centres on desertification is being established, to the operation of which countries with successful experience and achievements, such as Australia, China, India, and the USSR, are being invited to contribute.

27. In spite of its repeated efforts, the secretariat has not been able to start a study on the environmental and socio-economic management of mountain ecosystems owing to a lack of financial assistance.

C. Protection of marine environment and related ecosystems

28. The Regional Technical Workshop on the Protection of the Marine Environment and Related Ecosystems was organized at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Rangsit, Thailand in February 1984. The publication of the proceedings, emphasizing marine environmental problems and issues, is expected shortly.

29. Owing to its importance, the outcome of a survey conducted by the secretariat on training and fellowship requirements and existing expertise, which was presented to the Workshop, was published separately and circulated widely.

30. The reports on the development of coastal environmental management plans for the west coast of Sri Lanka and the upper sector of the Gulf of Thailand have been completed. Following further review, the reports were submitted to the respective Governments for clearance before publication.

31. As a contribution to the implementation of the Action Plan for Environmental Management of the South Pacific, the secretariat has provided support to fellowships for:

(a) Regional Technical Workshop on the Protection of Marine Environment and Related Ecosystems, AIT, February 1984;

/(b)

(b) Training Workshop for Selected South Pacific Broadcasters on Environmental Awareness, Sydney, March-April 1984;

(c) Expert Group Meeting on Integration of Environment into Development: Institutional and Legislative Aspects, Tokyo, June 1984;

(d) Intergovernmental Meeting on Integration of Environment into Development: Institutional and Legislative Aspects, Bangkok, November 1984;

(e) Third South Pacific Natural Parks and Reserves Conference, Samoa, June-July 1985.

32. In order to contribute to the outcome of its work in this field, the secretariat sent a representative from the Environmental Co-ordination Unit, together with other staff members, to the Conference on Economic, Scientific and Technical Co-operation in the Indian Ocean in the Field of Marine Affairs in the Control of the New Ocean Regime hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka at Colombo in July 1985.

IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

33. ESCAP has contributed positively to the International Year of the Forest through a regional study of the environmental and socio-economic impacts of tropical deforestation, by actively participating in the Expert Consultation and World Forestry Congress organized by FAO within the framework of the Year, and by presenting news and features related to the Year, forests and deforestation in ESCAP Environment News.

34. More activities in the field of environment with relevance to agriculture and food have been and are being implemented, including those related to the promotion of environmental awareness, the management of arid and semi-arid lands and desertification control, and the protection of the marine environment and related ecosystems.

35. The Committee may wish to take note of these activities and offer its comments, if any, on the relevance and usefulness of their presentation in this forum. The Committee may also wish to provide guidance on whether and how to continue this practice. In particular, views on the selection of the topic for consideration at future sessions of the Committee will be most useful to the secretariat.

/Annex

Annex

FAO COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2/86:
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FOREST

THE COUNCIL,

Convinced that forest conservation has become one of the greatest environmental problems and that society cannot afford further damage and degradation to the world's forest resources;

Being aware of the alarming rate at which tropical forest resources are being depleted, currently estimated at some 11 million ha per year;

Recognizing the important role of arid-zone forestry in preventing desertification through closer integration of forestry with agriculture in rural development programmes;

Being aware of the fact that forest fires are the major cause of the destruction of Mediterranean forests and that atmospheric pollution, alone or in combination with insects and diseases, seriously threatens the survival of many forests in the temperate regions;

Believing that the damage to forest resources by all these factors combined may signal potential damage to other sectors of human activity such as agriculture, quality of food and water, conservation of wildlife and fish populations and the quality of human life per se;

Expressing deep concern at the lack of political awareness at all levels of the social, economic and environmental consequences of continued excessive deforestation and of neglect of the world's forest resources;

Believing that every possible measure should be taken urgently in every country to accelerate the process of heightening political awareness at all levels of the critical importance for the future of mankind of adequate attention being given to the world's forests;

Being aware of the fact that the United Nations General Assembly has designated 1985 as International Youth Year and that "Tree Planting" will be one of the main programmes involving youth in development;

Considering that the Ninth World Forestry Congress will be held in Mexico in 1985 and the obvious advantages of associating international efforts for the conservation of the forest with this Congress;

1. Recommends that the Ninth World Forestry Congress in Mexico in July 1985 pays special attention to the conservation and proper use of forest resources,

2. Requests all Member Nations to give special recognition to "the Forest" during 1985 and to consider the conservation of their respective forest resources as a matter of national and global concern and to heighten public awareness of the importance of forests for the quality of life, the safeguarding of environmental

/stability

stability and of their contribution to socio-economic progress, and to sponsor programmes providing opportunities for youth to participate in tree planting and forest conservation,

3. Declares 1985 the International Year of the Forest,

4. Requests the Director-General to seek, within the limits of available funds in 1985, to respond to requests from FAO Member Nations for assistance in their separate and collective efforts to have "The Forest" duly recognized as a global concern during the year 1985 and in pursuance of the International Year.

. . . . .